(d) to (f) There are institutional mechanisms in place for regular dialogue on various security-related issues. The Government has been assured that the Government of Myanmar's policy is not to allow their territory to be used for activities inimical to India's interest.

Complaints from a NRI lady doctor

3689. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Level Committee for NRIs or NRI Grievance Cell or any other division of his Ministry received complaint from a NRI lady doctor, convenor of the Indian Medical Association about the harassment and discrimination by Australian Government and its High Commission at Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) One Indian doctor, Dr. Mona Verma, who was practising in the State of Queensland, Australia during the period from September 1998 to December 1999 has alleged harassment and acts of racism. The complaints centred around (1) alleged pressure on her by her Australian employer to commit unethical practices such as administering psychotropic substances and false certification of insanity (2) denial by the Medical Board of Queensland of registration despite her possessing the requisite sponsorship from another employer; and (3) refusal by the Australian High Commission of a 'bridging visa' to return to Australia. MEA had pressed her case with the Australian High Commission in Delhi who regretted that rules do not permit bridging visa to be issued outside Australia. Our High Commission in Canberra had contacted the Queensland Medical Board regarding her complaint of harassment and was asked for an authorisation letter from the doctor. Accordingly we requested Dr. Verma to send us an authorisation letter to enable the High Commission to pursue the enquiries on her behalf with the Queensland Medical Board, but she has not until now sent it.